

MINUTES
Morris County - Flood Mitigation Committee (FMC)
30 Schuyler Place - 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
January 27, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Jennifer McCulloch.

Members present:

Julie Baron	Gary Large
Paula Danchuk	Thomas Pepe
Louise Davis	Laura Szwak
Ted Eppel	

Also attending:

Deena Leary, Director, Morris County Department of Planning & Public Works
Christine Marion, Director, Planning & Preservation Division
Jennifer McCulloch, Flood Mitigation Program Coordinator, Planning & Preservation Division
John Napolitano, Esq., Special Counsel to Flood Mitigation Program

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Ms. McCulloch announced that in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting had been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

BOARD ORGANIZATION

- New Members/Freeholder Liaisons - Ms. McCulloch welcomed our two new additional committee members: Gary Large and Tom Pepe, as well as our new Freeholder Liaisons: David Scapicchio and John Cesaro (alternate) and wished former Freeholder Liaison Ann Grossi the best of luck in her new role as Morris County Clerk.
- Election of Officers – On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Ted Eppel, the committee elected Louise Davis to be FMC Chair by a unanimous roll call vote. On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Ted Eppel, the committee elected Laura Szwak to be FMC Vice-Chair by a unanimous roll call vote. Chair Davis assumed control of the meeting at this point.
- Member Roster / Member Terms – FMC members were provided with a roster of current members & Morris County staff information [doc. A]. A spreadsheet depicting FMC members current, staggered terms of service, and potential successive terms was presented as well [doc. B].
- 2014 Meeting Dates – Meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Monday of the month, at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Public

Works, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey. There are two exceptions: meetings will be held on *Tuesday* evening in February 2014 and January 2015 due to conflicts with national holidays. The meeting schedule will be as follows:

February 18, 2014	June 16, 2014	October 20, 2014
March 17, 2014	July 21, 2014	November 17, 2014
April 21, 2014	August 18, 2014	December 15, 2014
May 19, 2014	September 15, 2014	January 20, 2015

- Financial Disclosure Forms - Ms. McCulloch informed the FMC that the DCA is completely revising it's on-line filing procedure; until we receive further directions from the DCA no action is required at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the December 16, 2013 meeting were reviewed and on a motion by Ted Eppel, which was seconded by Paula Danchuk; the Committee approved said Minutes.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- **Denville Post-Preservation Plans** [doc. C] – Ms. McCulloch provided the FMC with the conceptual plans that the Township of Denville has prepared in conjunction with Rutgers Cooperative Extension, “Water Resources Program” for the properties preserved through the Flood Mitigation Program. The plan proposes several improvements, including:
 - Canoe/kayak launch access to the Rockaway River
 - Rain gardens to provide stormwater management and increase flood storage
 - A small porous pavement parking area for visitors with canoes/kayaks
 - Seating
 - Planting of native vegetation
- **Inundation Mapping from NJDEP/NWS/Google** – A joint venture has been formed between the NJ-DEP, the National Weather Service and Google resulting in the creation of “inundation maps” that will provide the public with water depth estimates during a flood. This is an effort to assist emergency management personnel and keep residents in the Passaic River basin informed about flooding events *as they are occurring*.

Seven flood inundation maps have been launched, covering 20 northern NJ communities, including Chatham, Long Hill, Riverdale and Pequannock in Morris County. These maps are part of the “15-Point Plan” recommended by the Passaic River Basin Advisory Commission. New stream gages were installed, as well as replacements for the many gages washed away and lost during Hurricane Irene. These stream gages and the information gathered by them will be owned by Google. See press release/map [doc. D].

It is important to note that this mapping does not replace the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) which are still considered the best predictor of flood hazard since they provide hydraulic & hydrology analyses, as well as historic flood data. FIRMs will continue to be used by Morris County staff to develop Flood Acquisition Plans for municipalities.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:45 p.m., on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Tom Pepe, the FMC closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, and per the Committee's standard resolution language voted to conduct a closed session wherein the subject of real property acquisition shall be discussed.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 6:00 p.m., on a motion by Ted Eppel, seconded by Tom Pepe, the FMC returned to open session by unanimous vote.

The following action was taken, as a result of Closed Session deliberations.

- **FMP Rules & Regulations: Eligible Properties** – revision of the rule regarding eligible properties [doc. E] was unanimously approved via roll call vote at 6:00 p.m. on a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Paula Danchuk.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Bergen County's Flood Mitigation Program** – has been successfully launched.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Julie Baron, seconded by Laura Szwak, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for *Tuesday*, February 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Conference Room of the Offices of Planning & Preservation, located at 30 Schuyler Place, Schuyler Annex Building, in Morristown, New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer N. McCulloch